

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

In the Office Action mailed April 26, 2005, claims 1-24 were pending. Claims 1-15 were allowed. Claims 16-19 and 21-24 were rejected. Claim 20 was objected to, however, the Examiner indicated that claim 20 would be allowed if it was rewritten in independent form to contain all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this amendment, Applicant requests that claims 16 and 17 be cancelled without prejudice. Claim 20 has been amended according to the Examiner's advice of being rewritten in independent form to incorporate all limitations of the independent claim and all intervening claims. Claims 18-19 and 21-24 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 20.

By this amendment, Applicant is not conceding the propriety of the rejection and retains the right to pursue the subject matter of the cancelled claims in other applications. The amendments herein are made solely to forward the prosecution of the allowed claims. In view of the amendments made herein, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner allow all of the remaining claims.

### **CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests that all the objections and rejections to the claims be removed and that the claims pass to allowance. If for any reason the Examiner disagrees, please call the undersigned attorney at (202) 861-1792 in an effort to resolve any matter still outstanding before issuing another action. The undersigned Attorney is confident that any issue which might remain can readily be worked out by telephone.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, Applicant petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fee deficiencies or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-2036.

Respectfully submitted,

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